CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A system for axially coupling a tubular end with a mandrel, the system comprising a tubular end, a mandrel inserted into the tubular end, the mandrel in axial alignment with the tubular end thereby forming an annular space between the tubular end and the mandrel, and a connecting assembly in the annular space, the connecting assembly comprises two or more transmission units, each transmission unit in itself ~~being arranged for~~ axially coupling the tubular end with the mandrel, wherein each transmission unit comprises ~~is comprised of~~ a first fixture element, a second fixture element, and spacer means for maintaining an axial displacement between the first fixture element and the second fixture element, whereby the first fixture element is axially connectable to an inner surface of the tubular end and the second fixture element is axially connectable with the mandrel.

2. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the two or more transmission units are interconnected to form a string of interconnected transmission units.

3. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer means comprises adjustment means for adjusting the axial displacement.

4. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 3, wherein the adjustment means comprises a thread connection defining a thread path essentially coaxial to the mandrel.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer means comprises resilient means for providing axial resilience to the tubular ends when coupled.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 5, wherein the resilient means in at least one of the transmission units has a lower stiffness than the resilient means in another one of the transmission units.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising first locking means for establishing a releasable axial coupling between the first fixture element and an inner surface of the tubular end.

8. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising second locking means for axially releasably locking the second fixture element on an outer surface of the mandrel.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 8, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable by relative rotation of the second fixture element and the mandrel about the alignment axis.

11. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the second locking means is comprised of at least one set of cooperating locking rim segments, one locking rim segment being provided on a locking portion of the mandrel and one locking rim segment being provided on the second fixture element.

12. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the spacer means comprises a bearing element within a bearing race supporting the bearing element in a plane perpendicular to the alignment axis, whereby the first fixture element is rotatable with respect to the second fixture element about the alignment axis.

13. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the tubular end is a first tubular end and the mandrel is a second tubular end.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) A system for axially coupling a tubular end with a mandrel, the system comprising a tubular end, a mandrel inserted into the tubular end, the mandrel in axial alignment with the tubular end thereby forming an annular space between the tubular end and the mandrel, and a connecting assembly in the annular space, the connecting assembly comprises two or more transmission units, each transmission unit being arranged for axially coupling the tubular end with the mandrel, wherein each transmission unit is comprised of a first fixture element, a second fixture element, and spacer means for maintaining an axial displacement between the first fixture element and the second fixture element, whereby the first fixture element is axially connectable to an inner surface of the tubular end and the

second fixture element is axially connectable with the mandrel, wherein the spacer means comprises adjustment means for adjusting the axial displacement which adjustment means comprises a thread connection defining a thread path essentially coaxial to the mandrel.

16. (New) The system according to claim 15, wherein the spacer means comprises resilient means for providing axial resilience to the tubular ends when coupled.

17. (New) The system according to claim 16, wherein the resilient means in at least one of the transmission units has a lower stiffness than the resilient means in another one of the transmission units.

18. (New) The system according to claim 15, further comprising first locking means for establishing a releasable axial coupling between the first fixture element and an inner surface of the tubular end.

19. (New) The system according to claim 15, further comprising second locking means for axially releasably locking the second fixture element on an outer surface of the mandrel.

20. (New) The system according to claim 19, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable.

21. (New) The system according to claim 19, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable by relative rotation of the second fixture element and the mandrel about the alignment axis.

22. (New) The system according to claim 20, wherein the second locking means is comprised of at least one set of cooperating locking rim segments, one locking rim segment being provided on a locking portion of the mandrel and one locking rim segment being provided on the second fixture element.

23. (New) The system according to claim 15, wherein the spacer means comprises a bearing element within a bearing race supporting the bearing element in a plane perpendicular to the alignment axis, whereby the first fixture element is rotatable with respect to the second fixture element about the alignment axis.

24. (New) A system for axially coupling a tubular end with a mandrel, the system comprising a tubular end, a mandrel inserted into the tubular end, the mandrel in axial alignment with the tubular end thereby forming an annular space between the tubular end and the mandrel, and a connecting assembly in the annular space, the connecting assembly comprises two or more transmission units, each transmission unit being arranged for axially coupling the tubular end with the mandrel, wherein each transmission unit is comprised of a first fixture element, a second fixture element, and spacer means for maintaining an axial displacement between the first fixture element and the second fixture element, whereby the first fixture element is axially connectable to an inner surface of the tubular end and the second fixture element is axially connectable with the mandrel, further comprising second locking means for axially releasably locking the second fixture element on an outer surface of the mandrel, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable, and wherein the second locking means is comprised of at least one set of cooperating locking rim segments, one locking rim segment being provided on a locking portion of the mandrel and one locking rim segment being provided on the second fixture element.

25. (New) The system according to claim 24, wherein the spacer means comprises resilient means for providing axial resilience to the tubular ends when coupled.

26. (New) The system according to claim 25, wherein the resilient means in at least one of the transmission units has a lower stiffness than the resilient means in another one of the transmission units.

27. (New) The system according to claim 24, wherein the second locking means is controllably lockable and releasable by relative rotation of the second fixture element and the mandrel about the alignment axis.

28. (New) The system according to claim 24, further comprising first locking means for establishing a releasable axial coupling between the first fixture element and an inner surface of the tubular end.

29. (New) The system according to claim 24, wherein the spacer means comprises a bearing element within a bearing race supporting the bearing element in a plane perpendicular to the alignment axis, whereby the first fixture element is rotatable with respect to the second fixture element about the alignment axis.